

uphold what is right and true. May You always be near to guide in their decisions, to comfort them in their failures, and to keep them humble in their successes. Give us faith, Lord, that we can see in every difficulty there is an opportunity, and in every blessing there is a responsibility, and in every purpose a task.

Lord, we ask for Your watchful eye to be upon our troops wherever they are serving. And be with their families that love them dearly and for those who are grieving their loss at this time. We give thanks for all of the organizations who have given support to make our troops return safe and sure.

Wherever we are serving, help us to accomplish great and good things for our States and for our Nation, now and forever. We pray for Thy glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution and a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

S.J. Res. 12. Joint resolution proclaiming Casimir Pulaski to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

WELCOMING REV. LAWRENCE L. VOLLINK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I'm very honored to be here to welcome Chaplain Larry Vollink and his wife, Susie, who was also in the counterintelligence field in the United States military during her day. They're in Washington, D.C. for the annual Washington American Legion Conference. The chaplain is the national chaplain for the American Legion. He lives in Ypsilanti,

Michigan, a graduate of South High School, the very same high school that Gerald Ford attended.

He's retired from the Army after 20 years of service to his country. He was stationed in Germany, Fort Campbell, Fort Carson and Selfridge Air Base in Michigan.

He has pastored churches in Ohio and Illinois and Michigan. He has served as a pastor and continues to serve as a pastor in hospitals and Hospice around the mid-Michigan area.

He has committed and dedicated his life to the military families that he loves and respects and is a part of. He has nourished their souls and strengthened their faith. We are honored to have him today lead us in prayer and through the challenging days that lie ahead of this great Nation. And we welcome not only his wife, Susie, but the entire Michigan delegation that has joined him. He's got one heck of a cavalry in his reserve.

BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. The President has presented his budget, and it really is a blueprint for the future. It's time to end the responsibility that's been created over the last decade and return us back to some honest accounting principles; to making certain that we put everything in the pot, examine line by line the budget, and make the kind of investments in the future that will strengthen our economy and grow our economy for our children.

And what does that mean? Investments in clean energy, so that we're no longer dependent on fossil fuels and foreign oil; investments in renewable energy, wind and solar, and biofuels.

We'll make sure that we have a health care system that really works for every American, making sure that we have quality affordable access to health care. This is an investment that the President has put before us in his budget, and it's an investment whose time is overdue.

Investments in education that make certain that from pre-Kindergarten through high school and then on-going learning we are preparing a workforce for the future, a workforce for the 21st century economy. And then, of course, making sure that we invest in our infrastructure, in water and sewer and transportation and broadband, in an electrical grid for the future, being certain that we've made the kinds of investments. The President has presented a budget that makes the kind of investments that will restore us to a strengthened economy in the 21st century.

WHAT'S A TRILLION DOLLARS?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in February this House passed two bills that are well over \$1 trillion: the illusive Stimulus Bill that rewards special interest groups, and the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Both were passed.

There are even more high-dollar government programs being planned in back rooms of this Capitol.

So how much is \$1 trillion? Well, it's 1 with 12 zeros behind it. It will buy you 36 million Chevrolet Malibus. It's spending \$1,000 a day at the mall for 2.5 million years. Or it will pay the college education for every high school graduate for the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with this spending is we don't have the money, so we're going have to borrow it or raise taxes. Both of those are bad ideas. This big government spending spree agenda is not helping our economy. The stock market keeps going down. Congress is forcibly taking money from Americans to spend on programs that don't work, and also acquiring debt that Americans yet to be born will have to pay for.

And that's just the way it is.

A CLEAR, VISIONARY BLUEPRINT FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, we were given the most honest, visionary and fair budget that we have gotten in 8 years. It includes the cost of the wars and the cost of patching the Alternative Minimum Tax which the Bush budgets were never willing to do. It invests in an education and energy future that will sustain a strong prosperous economy. And the fact is that it is fair.

Now, that's going to be the talking point, that it does allow taxes to be restored on those who have seen the highest income growth over the last 8 years, the wealthiest 2 percent of our society. This issue has historically been a defining feature of America, that people who benefit the most from our economic prosperity should pay for the cost of the military that defends that wealth, should pay for the cost of the roads and the rails that transport that wealth, and, in fact, should pay for the cost of educating the workforce that produces that wealth.

This budget, for the first time in 8 years, is not dead on arrival. This is a clear visionary blueprint for America's future, and we should support it.

SAVE TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. JIM MORAN worked to save tours of the Capitol, and Congressman LOEBSACK and I have now authored a bipartisan letter to the Architect of